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August 1962

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director of Central Intelligence

VIA: Acting Assistant Director (Special Activities) *per JGR*
Deputy Director (Research) *HS*
Deputy Director of Central Intelligence

SUBJECT: U-2 Recce of Ship Movements into Cuba

1. This memorandum contains a recommendation in paragraph 4 below.

2. Since being alerted on Sunday noon, 5 August, by Mr. [REDACTED] about the Director's concern to obtain U-2 photography of ships moving into Cuba, allegedly 11, of which 6 arrived on Sunday, 5 August, I have considered this matter with the Agency's personnel and the military. I have the following to report:

a. The U-2 Mission on Sunday, 5 August, will be read out on Tuesday, 7 August. The ports at which the Russian vessels were supposed to have docked were on the flight path of the U-2. It is therefore likely that we have photography of these vessels. From previous experience it is expected that on those docked the most we will learn is the identity of the vessels and the nature of the deck cargo and, if unloading, the cargo from the hold. On vessels in transit, only deck cargo will be visible. [REDACTED]

b. The remaining 5 vessels which will be stringing into Cuban ports could be subject to photographic surveillance of Navy aircraft outside the 12-mile limit. DOD, on my request, is querying CINCLANT for the results of any previous surveillance and requesting their continuance of surveillance to include photography.

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c. The DIA representative of COMOR, [REDACTED] reports that as a result of all his checking on the military, no one seems very excited about the movement of these vessels.

d. One of the objectives of the 5 August Mission was to provide information which would be useful to Task Force W. If this is not obtained, the Task Force would like to obtain the information on the next Sunday, 12 August, as well as the following weekday, thereby gaining information on the pattern of a particular industrial activity. This information is incident to their operational planning.

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[REDACTED]

In view of the findings with regard to the need for U-2 recce of the vessels entering Cuba and in view of the timing on the Task Force requirements, it would seem prudent not to depend upon the U-2 for recce during the coming 6 days and that Operations be free to initiate the periodic maintenance check immediately. If the check is begun 7 August, the U-2 will again be in an in-commission status by 11 August.

3. The Assistant to DDI (Planning) and the DDI representative on COMOR concur in these views and the recommendation below.

4. Recommendation: That for the coming 5 days we rely on sources other than the U-2 for recce over Cuba and incident to the only known urgent requirement, namely, the characteristics of the cargo of the Soviet vessels entering Cuba.

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[REDACTED]

James Q. Reber
Chairman

Committee on Overhead Reconnaissance

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CONCUR:

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[REDACTED]

(Acting Assistant/Director
(Special Activities)

Date Aug 6, 1962

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[REDACTED]

Deputy Director
(Research)

Date Aug 6, 1962

Deputy Director

Date _____

The recommendation contained
in paragraph 4 is approved:

Director of Central Intelligence

Date _____